

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a rehabilitation package of Rs. 9650.55 crore for sixteen districts of Andhra Pradesh. This includes both subsidy/grant and loan component. Various items of assistance covered by this amount are *ex-gratia* assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), interest waiver, assured irrigation, seed replacement, watershed development, micro-irrigation, horticulture development, extension services, and subsidiary income services. Asum of Rs. 3255 crore has been released so far for implementation of the package. The State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of the package.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen

*80. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for sanction of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen Saving-cum-Relief Scheme;

(b) if so, the complete details of the scheme, indicating the monetary participation of the Central and the State Government;

(c) the action taken on this request and the funds released, so far, for the scheme; and

(d) the reasons for delay, if any, in sanctioning of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh sought Central Assistance for Saving-cum-Relief component of the "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" during the current financial year.

(b) Under the Saving-cum-Relief, marine fisher has to contribute Rs. 75 per month for 8 months whereas the inland fisher Rs. 50 per month for 9 months and the Government provides equivalent amount (shared by Centre and State on 50:50 basis and 100% Central share in case of Union Territory). The beneficiary contribution together with Government contribution is disbursed during the lean period to the marine fisher in 4 and inland fisher in 3 monthly installments of Rs. 300 each.

(c) On receipt of proposal from the State of Andhra Pradesh, a sum of Rs. 15.36 lakh has been released as per their requirement to implement the Saving-cum-Relief component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen in 2006-07.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Contract farming

416. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the experience of contract farming in Andhra Pradesh which shows that growing incidents of pre-determined prices being reduced on the pretext of inferior quality of crops and delayed payments have led to farmers resenting a system that has put them under the total control of corporations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to set up strong systems to monitor contracts to ensure that growers, the more vulnerable partners, are not exploited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to equitably protect the interests of both the parties under contract farming, a Model Act which, *inter-alia*, provides for an institutional arrangement for registration of sponsoring companies, recording of Contract Farming Agreement, indemnity to farmers' land and lays down a time bound dispute resolution mechanism was circulated to State Governments for their guidance. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that based on the said Model Act, the relevant existing State law has been suitably amended and notified. As per the notified provisions, any person desiring to enter into Contract Farming Agreements with farmers/producers can do so by entering into a Contract Farming Agreement and these agreements have to be registered with the Market Committees concerned. The State Government has, however, reported that no Contract Farming cases have been registered with the Agricultural Market Committees in the State of Andhra Pradesh so far.